

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF ETHEOSTOMA (E. MICROPTERUS) FROM CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO.

BY

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Etheostoma micropterus sp. nov. (No. 38245 U. S. Nat. Mus.)

Color in spirits: Light olive, sides and above obscurely tessellated with darker. Nine short dark cross-bars on back, and traces of about an equal number on middle of sides, those on front of sides faint, only the last five evident. A black humeral spot present. A faint dark streak downwards and one forwards from eye, and a small dark spot above and behind orbit. Cheeks dusky; top of head vermiculated with dusky brownish. Spinous dorsal with a basal series of small blackish spots, each in the midst of a translucent area, the terminal portion of membrane rendered dusky by minute close-set dark points. Soft dorsal and caudal barred with light and dark lines. Pectorals and ventrals translucent, unmarked. The spinous dorsal probably showed bright colors in life.

Head $3\frac{2}{3}$ in length; depth $3\frac{3}{4}$. Length of caudal peduncle nearly equaling head. Least depth caudal peduncle equals one-half head. D X, I, 11; A II, 7. Lat. l. $45^{\frac{2}{3}}$ (pores 31).

Body extremely short and deep, the head short and heavy, moderately compressed. Upper profile of head rounded, no angle above orbits, the short snout with rounded profile but not obtuse. Premaxillaries on level of pupil, non-protractile. Preorbital extremely narrow, little wider than the broad end of the maxillary bone, which is not concealed by it. Gill-membranes rather narrowly united across the isthmus, their width antero-posteriorly one-half diameter of eye. Opercular spine bifid, with two minute free points. Preopercle entire. Eye large, 4 in head to end of opercular spine. Interorbital space wide, strongly convex, its width equaling length of snout, $5\frac{1}{2}$ in head.

Fins all small. Distance from front of dorsal to tip of snout one-third length. Dorsals low, the two joined at base, the last spine appearing longer than the preceding one, and belonging to the second dorsal. Longest dorsal spine one-third head. Length of last dorsal spine two-thirds diameter of orbit, the spine erect and connected for its entire height with the following soft ray. The next to the last spine is directed

very obliquely backwards and appears much shorter than the last spine, its membrane joining last spine at base only. Base of spinous dorsal as long as head in front of preopercular margin, its highest ray half head. Anal fin very small, the spines large and strong; first spine much longer and stronger than the second, $3\frac{1}{2}$ in head, equaling length of snout and half eye. Highest soft ray of anal equals length of snout and eye. Pectorals and ventrals both very small; the pectoral short, broad, and rounded, reaching the same vertical as ventrals, $1\frac{1}{3}$ in head, and having but 11 rays. Ventrals $1\frac{1}{2}$ in head.

Sides of head, breast, and nape wholly naked. Body with rather large ctenoid scales, uniformly covering belly. Lateral line straight, incomplete, reaching to below middle of soft dorsal.

A single specimen, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches long; collected by Mr. E. Wilkinson, at Chihuahua, Mexico.